

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER SECOND HALF 2003

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, Metropolitan Statistical Area increased 0.6 percent in the second half of 2003, not seasonally adjusted, to a level of 158.6 (1987=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that from the second half of 2002 through the second half of 2003, the index rose 1.9 percent.

Five of the eight major indexes recorded increases in the second half of the year. Rising costs for housing and food and beverages accounted for the increase in the all items index. In the second half of 2003, food costs rose 1.8 percent while energy costs dropped 0.1 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater rose 0.3 percent in the second half of 2003.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area, by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percent change from				
	2 nd half 2002 to 2 nd half 2003	1 st half 2003 to 2 nd half 2003			
All items	1.9	0.6			
Food and beverages	3.6	1.8			
Housing	1.8	0.9			
Apparel	-2.0	-1.8			
Transportation	2.4	-0.3			
Medical care	3.4	1.7			
Recreation 1/	0.7	0.4			
Education and communication 1/	-4.0	-2.3			
Other goods and services	2.7	1.0			

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Since the second half of 2002, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater has risen 1.9 percent. During that same time period, energy costs advanced 4.6 percent and food costs increased 3.6 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater has risen 1.2 percent since the second half of 2002.

Among the major index groups, the food and beverages index rose 1.8 percent in the second half of the year, the same as for the first half of the year. Costs for food at home (1.8 percent) accounted for almost all of the increase in the index. The index for food away from home increased 1.1 percent in the second half of the year. Costs for alcoholic beverages have risen 1.3 percent since the first half of 2003. Since the second half of 2002, costs for food away from home increased 3.1 percent, while costs for food at home rose 4.5 percent. The alcoholic beverages index increased 3.3 percent during that same time period. The index for food and beverages has increased 3.6 percent since the second half of 2002 due to rising costs for food at home.

The index for housing rose 0.9 percent in the second half of the year due to rising costs for shelter and fuels and utilities. Shelter costs rose 0.8 percent in the second half of 2003. The shelter index reflects changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence. Household fuel and utilities costs advanced 2.9 percent with the index for electricity increasing 2.6 percent. Utility natural gas service costs increased 0.3 percent in the second half of 2003 after rising 15.7 percent in the first half of 2003. The shelter index has risen 1.8 percent since the second half of 2002. Since the second half of 2002, housing costs have increased 1.8 percent. From the second half of 2002 through the second half of 2003, costs for utility natural gas service increased 16.1 percent, while electricity costs advanced 2.9 percent.

Apparel costs fell 1.8 percent in the second half of 2003 after dropping 0.2 percent in the first half of 2003. With the most recent decline, the index has dropped 2.0 percent since the second half of 2002.

The index for transportation decreased 0.3 percent in the second half of 2003 after increasing 2.7 percent in the first half of 2003. Gasoline costs fell 2.7 percent after advancing 8.9 percent in the first half of 2003. Overall, transportation costs have risen 2.4 percent since the second half of 2002, as costs for gasoline rose 6.0 percent.

Other major index groups include medical care, which rose 1.7 percent in the second half of 2003, the same as recorded for the first half of 2003. Since the second half of 2002, the index has risen 3.4 percent. Costs for recreation increased 0.4 percent in the second half of 2003. The index for recreation has increased 0.7 percent since the second half of 2002. The education and communication index dropped 2.3 percent in the second half of 2003, the largest six month decline since this index began. Since the second half of 2002, costs for education and communication have declined 4.0 percent. The other goods and services index rose 1.0 percent in the second half of 2003. The index has advanced 2.7 percent since the second half of 2002.

The South and metropolitan areas in the Southeast

Semiannual averages are also produced for the South region and the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Georgia; and Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In the second half of 2003, costs rose 0.6 percent in the South and 0.7 percent in Miami-Fort Lauderdale, while costs dropped 0.3 percent in Atlanta in the second half of 2003. Since the second half of 2002, costs have risen 2.0 percent in the South; 0.9 percent in Atlanta; and 2.7 percent in Miami-Fort Lauderdale.

Technical Notes

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to the 2001-02 period, effective with release of data for

January 2004. The newer weights replace the 1999-2000 weights, which were first used in the index effective with January 2002 data. Additionally, CPI expenditure weights will be updated at two-year intervals subsequent to the 2002 updating.

The BLS continues to publish separate indexes for the four Census regions of the United States. However, beginning in 1998, there are only two area size classes for metropolitan areas, instead of the former three: Size A - areas with a population greater than 1.5 million; and Size B/C - areas of 50,000 to 1.5 million population. This cutoff of 1.5 million in population reflects a rise from the former cutoff of 1.2 million and is important since cities in size class A are those for which the Bureau publishes city level indexes. The B/C size class is a combination of the old Size B and Size C metropolitan areas. In addition to the two metropolitan area size indexes for each region, separate Size D indexes for areas of less than 50,000 continue to be published for both the Midwest and the South. Separate indexes for Northeast and West urban nonmetropolitan areas were discontinued in 1987.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at http://www.bls.gov. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. Table 1 for the CPI-U, South may be found under Code 9110. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305.

Table 1. Consumer price index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers,

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, (1987=100), not seasonally adjusted.

Tampa-St. 1 etersourg-erear water, 1 fortue	, (1987=100), not seasonally adjusted. All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
Group	Index Percent change to 2nd		to 2nd half 2003	Index Percent change to 2nd half 200		to 2nd half 2003
Group	2nd half		om	2nd half	from	
	2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
All items	158.6	1.9	0.6	157.6	2.0	0.6
Food and beverages	157.9	3.6	1.8	158.7	3.9	2.3
Food	156.5	3.6	1.8	156.9	3.8	2.1
Food at home	155.2	4.5	1.8	156.4	4.7	2.2
Food away from home	158.2	3.1	1.1	157.8	2.9	1.1
Alcoholic beverages	165.5	3.3	1.3	168.0	5.7	3.3
Housing	153.6	1.8	0.9	153.9	1.9	1.1
Shelter	167.7	1.8	0.8	168.6	1.8	1.0
Rent of primary residence	163.4	1.2	1.1	163.4	1.2	1.1
Owners' equivalent rent (1)	177.0	2.5	1.0	177.0	2.5	1.0
Fuel and utilities	139.6	4.4	2.9	138.8	4.5	3.0
Fuels	125.2	3.3	2.3	125.3	3.4	2.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	124.6	3.2	2.6	125.0	3.3	2.5
Electricity	122.4	2.9	2.6	122.4	2.9	2.6
Utility (piped) gas service Household furnishings and	237.6	16.1	0.3	237.6	16.1	0.3
operation	121.3	-0.2	0.4	116.0	-1.0	0.3
Apparel	141.6	-2.0	-1.8	126.6	-1.1	-1.4
Transportation	147.4	2.4	-0.3	151.5	2.7	-0.7
Private transportation	149.8	2.2	-0.5	153.5	2.6	-0.8
Motor fuel	158.7	6.0	-2.7	158.7	5.9	-2.7
Gasoline (all types)	155.6	6.0	-2.7 -2.7	155.6	6.0	-2.7
Regular unleaded (1)	152.8	6.3	-2.8	152.8	6.3	-2.8
Midgrade unleaded (1) (2)	136.3	5.9	-2.6	136.3	5.9	-2.6
Premium unleaded (1)	157.6	5.6	-2.4	157.6	5.6	-2.4
Medical care	225.3	3.4	1.7	227.5	3.6	1.7
Recreation (3)	105.7	0.7	0.4	104.2	0.2	0.1
Education and communication (3)	103.6	-4.0	-2.3	106.3	-3.9	-2.3
Other goods and services	212.2	2.7	1.0	214.9	2.4	0.4
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	139.1	0.8	0.1	140.8	1.1	0.2
Commodities less food and beverages	127.9	-1.0	-0.9	129.6	-0.6	-1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	159.8	1.1	- 0.7	157.7	1.8	-0.6
Durables	96.1	-3.0	-0.7 -1.1	101.3	-3.5	-1.7
Services	176.2		0.9		2.6	0.9
Services	1/0.2	2.6	0.9	174.2	2.0	0.9
All items less medical care	154.4	1.7	0.5	154.1	1.9	0.5
All items less shelter	155.4	2.0	0.6	154.1	2.1	0.5
Commodities less food	130.3	-0.8	-0.8	132.6	-0.5	-0.9
Nondurables	158.8	2.5	0.8	158.4	2.9	1.0
Nondurables Nondurables less food	160.6	1.3	-0.5	159.7	2.0	-0.3
	138.5	4.6	-0.3 -0.1	140.4	4.7	-0.3
Energy	158.5	1.6	0.6	158.8	1.7	0.6
All items less energy						
All items less food and energy	160.6	1.2	0.3	159.2	1.2	0.3
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar: 1987=\$1.00	\$.631	-	-	\$.635	-	-

^{1/} Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
2/ Index is on a December 1993=100 base.
3/ Index is on a December 1997=100 base.
- Data not available

⁻ Data not available.